

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 249531

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (BLUMENTHAL, W. MICHAEL)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL'S VISIT

REFERENCE: KUWAIT 5808

1. FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF EVENTS DURING ATEEQI'S WASHINGTON VISIT PROVIDED BY TREASURY AND BY JAMIL HASSANI, LONG-TIME KUWAITI EMBASSY OFFICIAL IN WASHINGTON. KUWAITI AMBASSADOR JAFFAR WANTED TO HOST LUNCHEON OR DINNER IN ATEEQI'S HONOR DURING THE MEETINGS. ATEEQI MADE IT CLEAR HE DID NOT REPEAT NOT WANT ANY SOCIAL FUNCTION IN HIS HONOR. JAFFAR, HOWEVER, INSISTED AND ATEEQI AGREED TO ATTEND QUOTE SMALL LUNCHEON OR SMALL DINNER PARTY UNQUOTE ONLY IF SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL COULD ATTEND. JAFFAR'S OFFICE CALLED TREASURY TO INVITE BLUMENTHAL TO LUNCHEON AND ASKED FOR REPLY WITHIN 48 HOURS. BECAUSE OF TYPICALLY HEAVY SCHEDULE FOR TREASURY SECRETARY DURING THIS TRIP, BLUMENTHAL REGRETTE. APPAR-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 249531

ENTLY PHONE CALL TO REGRET DID NOT MAKE AMBASSADOR JAFFAR'S 48-HOUR DEADLINE. JAFFAR'S SECRETARY TOLD TREASURY OFFICER THAT AMBASSADOR QUOTE FELT SLIGHTED UNQUOTE, BUT WHETHER THIS CAUSED BY REGRET TO INVITATION OR BY DELAY IN REPLYING, OR BOTH, IS UNCERTAIN.

2. IN REGRETTING FOR SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL, TREASURY

PROPOSED BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND ATEEQI. KUWAITI EMBASSY REPLIED THAT ATEEQI HAD FULL SCHEDULE AND COULD NOT ACCOMMODATE MEETING. THUS BLUMENTHAL AND ATEEQI DID NOT MEET IN WASHINGTON TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE. ONLY POSSIBLE EXCEPTION WOULD HAVE BEEN SHORT MEETING DURING IMF FUNCTIONS BUT DEPARTMENT IS NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH ENCOUNTER.

3. DEPARTMENT IS NOT REPEAT NOT AWARE OF ANY DISSATISFACTION ON PART OF MINISTER ATEEQI BECAUSE OF THESE EVENTS. AS EMBASSY KUWAIT IS AWARE, AMBASSADOR JAFFAR IS SENSITIVE MAN AND APPARENTLY HE WAS SOMEWHAT UPSET. ARP OFFICER RECALLS THAT AMBASSADOR JAFFAR HAS THREE SONS WORKING IN FINANCE MINISTRY. ONE SON, FAISAL, WAS AND PERHAPS STILL IS DIRECTOR OF ATEEQI'S OFFICE. OFFICER ALSO RECALLS FAISAL SHARES HIS FATHER'S SENSITIVITY.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INDICATION OF PROBLEMS CAUSED DURING ATEEQI'S VISIT WHICH MIGHT BE REFLECTED IN SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL'S VISIT TO KUWAIT.

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